



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT BOSTON, MASS.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD EDITOR.

THE DREAM OF PEACE.

Is it then only a dream? Shall mankind awake century after century to find its best ideal farther and farther from realization? Shall "the panoply and pomp of war sit heavier on the world" as generation after generation passes by? Shall "the racial antagonisms, the long-cherished hatreds, and the bitter ashes of former quarrels" last forever? Have John Bright and Charles Sumner and Victor Hugo been false interpreters of the destiny of humanity? That is what the *Birmingham Mail*, which we quote on another page, seems to prophesy. We do not believe it. Such a view is not only a false interpretation of the condition of human society to day, but it is also an assertion, scarcely disguised, of the supremacy of evil, that this world belongs to the Devil and not to God, that all high, unselfish effort for the promotion of a great reform is in the end to see itself hopelessly foiled before the rising and on-rushing tide of iniquity.

The *Mail*, like many other papers and many good people, "sees and approves the better," but has no confidence that it will ultimately win. "That John Bright's dream will ultimately be realized" "is a consummation devoutly to be desired." "Economic principles are spreading much more widely" and "the sense of justice is reaching farther into and tearing up the selfishness of individuals," but the *Mail's* "faith trembles." The fact is it has no faith at all. It stands before the gigantic war evil, as it now exists in Europe, and openly approves it. Nations must be ready with armaments sufficient to make their claims and assert them, or go backward.

The great mistake in the *Mail's* position is that it interprets the future of society from the standpoint of evil and not of good. It sees and fully appreciates the monstrous burdens of war preparation and the racial hatreds out of which these preparations spring. But it sees only these. These are its "incontrovertible weight of facts." To it there are no other pages of history than these blood-stained ones. Fixing its eye exclusively on these appalling facts of history, which are of course enough to make any lover of his kind grow crimson with shame, the *Mail*, logically enough from such a point of view, concludes that this bloody stream of iniquity is always to flow on. But it forgets the other side of history. It has no appreciation of the rising tides of good which have swept one evil after another out of existence and are now attacking the very deepest seated iniquities of human society. Does not the *Mail* know that the average of human nature, in civilized countries to-day, is a very different thing from what it was centuries ago, or even during the first half of

the present century? And it is this changed human nature, tamer and more self-controlled and given to more sensible thinking than it once was, that is forming peace societies and workingmen's arbitration leagues, that is lifting up its voice in the pulpit and in the press and in legislative halls against the iniquity of war.

But it is not alone or even chiefly on what has been done that the peace man bases his confidence. The motive of his work is much deeper than that. War is wicked, unreasonable, inhuman, and God has said that it shall disappear. Peace is the supremest of blessings. This is the thought which inspires the peace movement, and causes men to work cheerfully and confidently on, though they may see no immediate fruit of their toils.

But after all, the fruits of the last half century of peace work are very apparent to any one who has eyes to see. The signs of the times are to such a one perfectly clear. No one expects the war system to disappear at once and without a struggle. The costliness and destructiveness of modern wars, to which the *Mail* alludes, are a curious sort of evidence to be adduced to prove that war will last forever.

When an iniquity runs mad, as the war system is now doing, even indifferent people are likely to awaken to the sense of its presence and assist in its overthrow.

The *Mail* does not think that peace will ever come "by means of human agency." Neither do we; that is, by human agency alone. But it will certainly never come without human agency. It may even have to come in opposition to much misdirected, though well-meant, human agency. But there is an "agency" from on high which mingles with and gives strength to rightly directed human effort. This is the agency which has been working through all the Christian centuries transforming human nature and human society, and preparing slowly but surely that time when the nations shall learn war no more. The present generation and half a dozen more, with all their doubting and half-hearted journals, may pass away, but the forces that are creating "the coming peace" will work on, under the blessing and inspiration of the Prince of Peace until

"Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front"
and "the arbitrationist's dream" has become the grandest reality.

OPENING OF THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

Before this number of the *Advocate* reaches our readers President Cleveland will have started the machinery at Jackson Park and the big Columbian Exposition will have been set going. The buildings and grounds are not yet all in order, but the chaotic condition of things will soon disappear and the streams of visitors will see nothing but the completed product of the years of planning and toil.

It is certain that the Exposition will be a great one, the